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919	7590	11/16/2005		EXAMINER	
PITNEY B	OWES II	NC.	BASS, JON M		
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MSC 26-22			3639		
SHELTON,	CT 064	84-8000	DATE MAILED: 11/16/2005		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

		Application No.	Applicant(s)					
		09/777,592	RYAN, FREDERICK W.					
	Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit					
		Jon Bass	3639					
Period fo	The MAILING DATE of this communication app or Reply	ears on the cover sheet with the c	orrespondence address •					
WHIC - Exter after - If NO - Failu Any r	ORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY CHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE in a sions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.13 SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. The preriod for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period were to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing and patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).	ATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION 36(a). In no event, however, may a reply be tim will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the cause the application to become ABANDONEI	L. ely filed . the mailing date of this communication. O (35 U.S.C. § 133).					
Status								
1)⊠	Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>05 Fe</u>	ebruary 2001.	•					
		action is non-final.						
3)	Since this application is in condition for allowar	is application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is						
.—	closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.							
Dispositi	ion of Claims							
4)🖂	4)⊠ Claim(s) <u>2-7,9-14 and 16-20</u> is/are pending in the application.							
	4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration.							
5)	5) Claim(s) is/are allowed.							
6)⊠ Claim(s) <u>2-7,9-14 and 16-20</u> is/are rejected.								
7)	7) Claim(s) is/are objected to.							
8)	8) Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.							
Applicati	ion Papers							
9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.								
10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.								
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).								
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).								
11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.								
Priority ι	under 35 U.S.C. § 119							
12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some * c) None of:								
	1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.							
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No								
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage								
application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).								
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.								
	•							
A44.a.b	44-1							
Attachmen	et(s) e of References Cited (PTO-892)		(PTO_413)					
	e of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Da	ite					
3) 🔲 Infor	mation Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)		atent Application (PTO-152)					
•	r No(s)/Mail Date	6) Other:						

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This is in response to the communication filed on December 01, 1997. Claims 2-7, 9-14 and 16-20 are pending in this application.

Response to Amendment

2. This is in response to an amendment filed on August 10, 2005. In the amendment, claims 1, 8, 15, 21 have been cancelled. Claims 2, 9, 16 and 20 have been amended. Claims 2-7, 9-14 and 16-20 are pending in this application.

Response to Arguments

- 3. Applicant's arguments filed on August 10, 2005 have been fully considered and are persuasive.
- 4. Applicant argues that the prior art is moot and the only rejections remaining are under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). The applicant continues to explain that U.S. Patent Nos: 6,466,921 and 6,526,391 are "disqualified as prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103 (c) based on common ownership". The Examiner aggress however, has applied new prior art reference that qualify under U.S.C. 102(a). Thus examiner notes that applicant can not exclude these references under U.S.C. 103(c).
- 5. Below are the updated rejections.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claims 2, 9 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Robert Cordery et al (International Publication Number WO 98/57304), hereinafter referenced as Cordery.

As per Claim 2

Cordery ('304) discloses a method and system, a mail piece verification system for processing mail pieces, the mail pieces having associated therewith respective mail piece data, the system comprising, [{fig.1, element 10}]:

A data center in operative communication with a plurality of mail processing centers, the data center including a plurality of account files corresponding to a plurality of postage metering systems, [{fig 1, element 30}, transaction data center];

And wherein the data center is for:

Storing reset data in each of the plurality of account files representative of reset activity associated with the plurality of postage metering systems, respectively, [{pg 6, lines 1-5}, data stored at the data center];

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Receiving respective mail piece data corresponding to the mail piece from the plurality of mail processing center, [{pg 12, lines 3-4}, receives a request];

Using the respective mail piece data, storing empirical data in each of the plurality of account files representative of mailing activity associated with the plurality of postage metering systems, respectively; and, [{pg 6, lines 1-5}, data stored at the data center]

Conducting a forensic accounting analysis of the empirical data and the reset data associated with a selected postage metering system using, previously defined time period over which to conduct the forensic accounting analysis. [{pg 6, lines 22-26}, evidencing transaction data stored authenticated records].

As per Claim 9:

Cordery ('304) discloses a method and system, a method of operating a mail piece verification system for processing mail piece, the mail piece having associated therewith respective mail piece data, the method comprising:

Receiving mail pieces at a plurality of mail processing centers that have been prepared by a plurality of postage metering systems, [{pg 12, lines 4-7}, receives request from meter database];

Obtaining the respective mail piece data from the mail pieces;

Maintaining a plurality of account files corresponding to the plurality of postage metering systems, {pg. 6, lines 1-6}, secure accounting for postage evidencing transaction at center];

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Storing reset data in each of the plurality of account files representatives of reset activity associated with plurality of postage metering systems, respectively, [{pg.6 lines 1-6}, stored at data center];

Using the respective mail piece data, storing, empirical data in each of the plurality of account files representative of mailing activity associated with the plurality of postage metering systems, respectively; and, [{pg.6 lines 1-6}, stored at data center];

Conducting a forensic accounting analysis of the empirical data and the reset data associated with a selected postage metering system previously defined time period over which to conduct the forensic accounting analysis, [{pg. 6, lines 22-26}, evidencing transaction data stored authenticated records].

As per Claim 16:

Cordery ('304) discloses a method and system, a method of operating a data center for processing data associated with mail pieces and a plurality of postage metering systems for preparing mail pieces, the method comprising:

Obtaining reset data representative of reset activity associated with the plurality of postage metering systems; [{pg 6, 1-5}, data stored at the data enter]

Obtaining empirical data representative of mailing activity associated with the plurality of postage metering systems; and, [{pg 6, lines 1-5}, data stored at the data center]

Conducting a forensic accounting analysis of the empirical data and the reset data associated with selected postage metering system, previously defined time period over which to

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conduct the forensic accounting analysis. [{pg. 6, lines 22-26}, evidencing transaction data stored authenticated records].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

- (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.
- Claims 3, 5-7, 10, 12-14, 17, 19 and 20 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robert Cordery et al. (International Publication Number WO 98/57304) and further in view of Robert Cordery (306) et al. (International Publication Number WO 98/57306), hereinafter referred as to Cordery (306).

As per Claim 3

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Cordery discloses a method and system but lacks wherein the data center initiates responsive action if the forensic accounting analysis reveals that the empirical data is not consistent with the reset data for the selected postage metering system.

Cordery (306) discloses a method and system wherein the data center initiates responsive action if the forensic accounting analysis reveals that the empirical data is not consistent with the reset data for the selected postage metering system (page 6, lines 24-30), postage evidence is inhibited when parameter does not match.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Cordery's method and system in conjunction with Cordery ('306)'s system to emulate an invention that deals with, the data center initiates responsive action if the forensic accounting analysis reveals that the empirical data is not consistent with the reset data for the selected postage metering system, postage evidence is inhibited when parameter does not match, which additionally verifies the product data and its origin (page 6, lines 24-30),

As per Claim 5

Cordery discloses a method and system but lacks wherein, the selected postage metering system includes an existing serial number; the responsive action includes issuing a new serial number to the selected postage metering system to replace the existing serial number; and the data center provides instructions to the plurality of mail processing centers to withhold processing of mail pieces containing the existing serial number while allowing normal processing of mail pieces containing the new serial number.

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Cordery ('306) discloses a method and system wherein, the selected postage metering system includes an existing serial number; the responsive action includes issuing a new serial number to the selected postage metering system to replace the existing serial number; and the data center provides instructions to the plurality of mail processing centers to withhold processing of mail pieces containing the <u>Existing</u> serial number while allowing normal processing of mail pieces containing the new serial number (pg. 6, lines 24-30), defines a combination of postage parameters.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Cordery's method and system in conjunction with Cordery ('306)'s system to emulate an invention that deals with, the selected postage metering system includes an existing serial number; the responsive action includes issuing a new serial number to the selected postage metering system to replace the existing serial number; and the data center provides instructions to the plurality of mail processing centers to withhold processing of mail pieces containing the existing serial number while allowing normal processing of mail pieces containing the new serial number defines a combination of postage parameters, which additionally verifies the product data and its origin (pg. 6, lines 24-30).

As per Claim 6

Cordery discloses a method and system but lacks wherein, the selected postage metering system includes an existing serial number; the responsive action includes issuing a new serial number to the selected postage metering system to replace the existing serial number; and the data center provides instructions to the plurality of mail processing centers to withhold

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processing of mail pieces containing the <u>existing</u> serial number while allowing normal processing of mail pieces containing the new serial number.

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Cordery ('306) discloses a method and system wherein, the selected postage metering system includes an existing serial number; the responsive action includes issuing a new serial number to the selected postage metering system to replace the existing serial number; and the data center provides instructions to the plurality of mail processing centers to withhold processing of mail pieces containing the existing serial number while allowing normal processing of mail pieces containing the new serial number (pg. 6, lines 24-30), defines a combination of postage parameters.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Cordery's method and system in conjunction with Cordery ('306)'s system to emulate an invention that deals with the selected postage metering system includes an existing serial number; the responsive action includes issuing a new serial number to the selected postage metering system to replace the existing serial number; and the data center provides instructions to the plurality of mail processing centers to withhold processing of mail pieces containing the existing serial number while allowing normal processing of mail pieces containing the new serial number defines a combination of postage parameters, which additionally verifies the product data and its origin (pg. 6, lines 24-30).

As per Claim 7

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Cordery discloses a method and system but lacks wherein, the responsive action includes issuing instructions to the plurality of mail processing centers to increase a sample rate for mail pieces including mail piece data corresponding to the selected postage metering system.

Cordery ('306) discloses a method and system wherein, the responsive action includes issuing instructions to the plurality of mail processing centers to increase a sample rate for mail pieces including mail piece data corresponding to the selected postage metering system (pg 6, lines 3-8), postage metering system dispense on certain numbers and days.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Cordery's (304) method and system in conjunction with Cordery ('306)'s system to emulate an invention that deals with, the responsive action includes issuing instructions to the plurality of mail processing centers to increase a sample rate for mail pieces including mail piece data corresponding to the selected postage metering system, postage metering system dispense on certain numbers and days, which additionally verifies the product data and its origin (pg. 6, lines 3-8).

As per Claim 10

Cordery discloses a method and system but lacks wherein further comprising: initiating responsive action if the forensic accounting analysis reveals that the empirical data is not consistent with the reset data for the selected postage metering system.

Cordery ('306) discloses a method and system wherein further comprising the step(s) of: initiating responsive action if the forensic accounting analysis reveals that the empirical data is

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not consistent with the reset data for the selected postage metering system (pg. 6, lines 24-30), postage evidence is habited when parameters does not match.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of, the invention was made to modify Cordery's method and system in conjunction with Cordery ('306)'s system to emulate an invention that deals with, further comprising the step(s) of: initiating responsive action if the forensic accounting analysis reveals that the empirical data is not consistent with the reset data for the selected postage metering system, postage evidence is habited when parameters does not match, which additionally verifies the product data and its origin (pg. 6, lines 21-32).

As per Claim 12

Cordery discloses a method and system but lacks wherein the selected postage metering system includes an existing serial number, the method further comprising: issuing a new serial number to the selected postage metering system to replace the existing serial number; allowing normal processing of mail pieces containing the new serial number; and instructing the plurality of mail processing centers to withhold processing of mail pieces containing the existing serial number.

Cordery ('306) discloses a method and system wherein the selected postage metering system includes an existing serial number, and further comprising the step(s) of: issuing a new serial number to the selected postage metering system to replace the existing serial number; allowing normal processing of mail pieces containing the new serial number; and

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instructing the plurality of mail processing centers to withhold processing of mail pieces containing the <u>existing</u> serial number (pg.6, lines 21-32), the subset defines a combination of the postage evidence, parameters.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Cordery's method and system in conjunction with Cordery ('306)'s system to emulate an invention that deals with, the selected postage metering system includes an existing serial number, and further comprising the step(s) of: issuing a new serial number to the selected postage metering system to replace the existing serial number; allowing normal processing of mail pieces containing the new serial number; and instructing the plurality of mail processing centers to withhold processing of mail pieces containing the existing serial number the subset defines a combination of the postage evidence, parameters, which additionally verifies the product data and its origin (pg.6, lines 21-32).

As per Claim 13

Cordery discloses a method and system but lacks wherein the selected postage metering system includes an existing serial number, the method further comprising the step(s) of: issuing a new serial number to the selected postage metering system to replace the existing serial number;

allowing normal processing of mail pieces containing the new serial number; and instructing the plurality of mail processing centers to withhold processing of mail pieces containing the existing serial number.

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Cordery ('306) discloses a method and system wherein the selected postage metering system includes an existing serial number, and further comprising the step(s) of: issuing a new serial number to the selected postage metering system to replace the existing serial number; allowing normal processing of mail pieces containing the new serial number; and instructing the plurality of mail processing centers to withhold processing of mail pieces containing the old serial number (pg. 6, lines 16-21), the subset defines a combination of the postage evidence, parameters.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Cordery's method and system in conjunction with Cordery ('306)'s system to emulate an invention that deals with, the selected postage metering system includes an existing serial number, and further comprising the step(s) of: issuing a new serial number to the selected postage metering system to replace the existing serial number; allowing normal processing of mail pieces containing the new serial number; and instructing the plurality of mail processing centers to withhold processing of mail pieces containing the old serial number the subset defines a combination of the postage evidence, parameters, which additionally verifies the product data and its origin (pg.6, lines 15-22).

As per Claim 14

Cordery discloses a method and system but lacks wherein, the responsive action includes issuing instructions to the plurality of mail processing centers to increase a sample rate for mail pieces including mail piece data corresponding to the selected postage metering system.

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Cordery ('306) discloses a method and system wherein, the responsive action includes issuing instructions to the plurality of mail processing centers to increase a sample rate for mail pieces including mail piece data corresponding to the selected postage metering system (pg.6, lines 3-8), postage metering system dispense on certain numbers and days.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Cordery's method and system in conjunction with Cordery ('306)'s system to emulate an invention that deals with, the responsive action includes issuing instructions to the plurality of mail processing centers to increase a sample rate for mail pieces including mail piece data corresponding to the selected postage metering system, postage metering system dispense on certain numbers and days, which additionally verifies the product data and its origin (pg. 6, lines 3-8).

As per Claim 17

Cordery discloses a method and system but lacks wherein further comprising: initiating responsive action if the forensic accounting analysis reveals that the empirical data is not consistent with the reset data for the selected postage metering system.

Cordery ('306) discloses a method and system wherein further comprising: initiating responsive action if the forensic accounting analysis reveals that the empirical data is not consistent with the reset data for the selected postage metering system (pg. 6, lines 21-32), postage evidence is habited when parameters does not match.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Cordery's method and system in conjunction with Cordery

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('306)'s system to emulate an invention that deals with, further comprising the step(s) of: initiating responsive action if the forensic accounting analysis reveals that the empirical data is not consistent with the reset data for the selected postage metering system, postage evidence is habited when parameters does not match, which additionally verifies the product data and its origin (pg. 6, lines 21-32).

As per Claim 19

Cordery discloses a method and system but lacks wherein the selected postage metering system includes an existing serial number the method further comprising: issuing a new serial number to the selected postage metering system to replace the existing serial number;

Providing instructions to allow normal processing of mail pieces containing the new serial number; and

<u>Providing instructions</u> withhold processing of mail pieces containing the <u>existing</u> serial number.

Cordery ('306) discloses a method and system wherein the selected postage metering system includes an existing serial number the method further comprising: issuing a new serial number to the selected postage metering system to replace the existing serial number;

Providing instructions to allow normal processing of mail pieces containing the new serial number; and

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<u>Providing instructions</u> withhold processing of mail pieces containing the <u>existing</u> serial number. (pg. 6, lines 21-32), the subset defines a combination of the postage evidence, parameters.

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Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Cordery's method and system in conjunction with Cordery ('306)'s system to emulate an invention that deals with, the selected selected postage metering system includes an existing serial number the method further comprising: issuing a new serial number to the selected postage metering system to replace the existing serial number;

Providing instructions to allow normal processing of mail pieces containing the new serial number; and providing instructions withhold processing of mail pieces containing the existing serial number, which additionally verifies the product data and its origin (pg.6, lines 21-32).

As per Claim 20

Cordery discloses a method and system but lacks wherein the selected postage metering system includes an existing serial number the method further comprising: issuing a new serial number to the selected postage metering system to replace the existing serial number;

Providing instructions to allow normal processing of mail pieces containing the new serial number; and

<u>Providing instructions</u> withhold processing of mail pieces containing the <u>existing</u> serial number.

Cordery ('306) discloses a method and system wherein the selected postage metering system includes an existing serial number the method further comprising: issuing a new serial number to the selected postage metering system to replace the existing serial number;

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<u>Providing instructions to allow</u> normal processing of mail pieces containing the new serial number; and

<u>Providing instructions</u> withhold processing of mail pieces containing the <u>existing</u> serial number. (pg. 6, lines 21-32), the subset defines a combination of the postage evidence, parameters.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Cordery's method and system in conjunction with Cordery ('306)'s system to emulate an invention that deals with, the selected selected postage metering system includes an existing serial number the method further comprising: issuing a new serial number to the selected postage metering system to replace the existing serial number;

Providing instructions to allow normal processing of mail pieces containing the new serial number; and providing instructions withhold processing of mail pieces containing the existing serial number. which additionally verifies the product data and its origin (pg. 6, lines 21-32).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary

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skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4, 11 and 18 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robert Cordery et al. (International Publication Number WO 98/57304) as applied to in view Robert Cordery (306) (International Publication Number WO98/57306) in further view of Thomas Well et al. (2001/0032881) hereinafter referenced as Wells.

As per Claim 4

Cordery discloses a method and system but lacks wherein the responsive action includes conducting an inspection.

Cordery ('306) discloses a method and system but lacks wherein selected postage metering system.

Wells discloses a method and system wherein the responsive action includes conducting an inspection of the selected postage metering system (page 1[0006]), to perform mail verification.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Cordery and Cordery ('306)'s method and system in conjunction with Well's system to emulate an invention that deals with, the responsive action

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includes conducting an inspection of the selected postage metering system, to perform mail verification, which additionally verifies the product data and its origin (page 1[0006]).

As per Claim 11

Cordery discloses a method and system but lacks wherein the responsive action includes conducting an inspection.

Cordery ('306) discloses a method and system but lacks wherein selected postage metering system.

Wells discloses a method and system wherein the responsive action includes conducting an inspection of the selected postage metering system (page 1[0006]), to perform mail verification.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Cordery and Cordery ('306)'s method and system in conjunction with Well's system to emulate an invention that deals with, the responsive action includes conducting an inspection of the selected postage metering system, to perform mail verification, which additionally verifies the product data and its origin (page 1[0006]).

As per Claim 18

Cordery discloses a method and system but lacks wherein the responsive action includes conducting an inspection.

Cordery ('306) discloses a method and system but lacks wherein selected postage metering system.

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Wells discloses a method and system wherein the responsive action includes conducting an inspection of the selected postage metering system (page 1[0006]), to perform mail verification.

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Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Cordery and Cordery ('306)'s method and system in conjunction with Well's system to emulate an invention that deals with, the responsive action includes conducting an inspection of the selected postage metering system, to perform mail verification, which additionally verifies the product data and its origin (page 1[0006]).

Conclusion

Any concerns in regard to this communication, the examiner Jon Bass can be reached at (571) 272-6905 between the hours of 9-6pm Monday through Friday. The fax number for the establishment where the application is being process is (571) 273-8300.

If an attempt to reach the examiner is unsuccessful for any reason, the examiner's immediate supervisor, **John Hayes** can be reached at (571) 272-6708.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http:// pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-271-9197 (toll free).

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

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C/O Technology Center 3600

Washington, D.C. 20231

JOHN W. HAYES! SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER Page 21